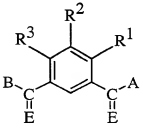
ABSTRACT

Selective MMP-13 inhibitors are isophthalic acid derivatives of the formula



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wherein:

R^1, R^2, and R^3 independently are hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, NO_2, NR^4R^5, CN, or CF_3;

E is independently O or S;

A and B independently are OR^4 or NR^4R^5;

each R^4 and R^5 independently are H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, $(CH_2)_n$ aryl, $(CH_2)_n$ cycloalkyl, $(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl, or R^4 and R^5 when taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached complete a 3- to 8-membered ring, optionally containing a heteroatom selected from O, S, or NH, and optionally substituted or unsubstituted;

n is 0 to 6;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. The compounds are useful for treating diseases in a mammal that are mediated by MMP enzymes.